

Ser. No. 09/937,373

Remarks

Claims 22-42 were pending in the application. Claims 22-42 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 22, 26, 30, 31, 35, and 40 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Interview Summary

A telephonic interview was held September 24, 2004 between Examiner C. Lugo, inventor D.G. More, and attorney W. Slate. The orientation of McNenny as opening longitudinally and not radially and Barbarou (see also Delgado) as open radially inwardly and not outward was discussed. The examiner proposed adding the clarifying language currently added to claim 22. He also requested addition of such language to claim 26. The examiner simultaneously proposed the related addition of the axis 500 in FIG. 2. These changes were agreed to.

Although the attorney had indicated Barbarou as lacking a copper plating, the examiner indicated the related rejection (e.g., of claim 23) was moot in view of the overcoming of the rejection of the base claim. Accordingly, no substantive agreement was reached.

The ridge thickness issue was discussed relative to claim 35. The examiner concurred that the Fages, Delgado, de Villepoix et al. ... seals featured outer member thickness along the ridges which was no greater than the original constant outer member thickness prior to machining of the ridges. The examiner proposed and attorney agreed to the clarifying changes to claim 35. It was additionally agreed that similar language would be incorporated into claims 30 and 40. In view of the amendment to claim 30, a corresponding recitation has been deleted from its dependent claim 31 and a material identification from claim 24 has been inserted merely to preserve the claim. A signed copy of the Form 413A is attached.

The Drawings

Submitted herewith is replacement sheet 2 reflecting the addition of axis 500 to FIG. 2 as noted above. The axis 500 appears in FIG. 1. In order to include the axis in FIG. 2, it is understood that the spacing between the axis and the seal body is compressed relative to that of FIG. 1.